

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06647 051017Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAM-01 OMB-01 /069 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4983

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 6647

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE REACTION TO BERBERA BASE

1. ARAB LEAGUE DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS TOLD
EMBOFFS JULY 3 THAT BURDEN OF PROOF REGARDING CHARGES
THAT SOVIETS ARE BUILDING MISSILE BASE AT BERBERA
RESTS WITH UNITED STATES. ARAB LEAGUE CURRENTLY
HAS ACCEPTED SOMALI VERSION OF BASE CONSTRUCTION
THAT SOVIETS ARE BUILDING BASE FOR SOMALI ARMED
FORCES. ARAB LEAGUE REP SAID THAT PRENCE OF
MISSILES ARE CRUCIAL TEST FOR ARAB LEAGUE. SOVIETS
CAN BUILD BASES FOR ANYONE FOR NATIONAL USE. ABSENCE
OF MISSILES WOULD INDICATE THAT BASE CAN REMAIN UNDER
SOMALI CONTROL AND SOVEREIGNTY AND, THEREFORE, DOES
NOT REPRESENT FOREIGN PRESENCE. PRESENCE OF MISSILES,
HOWEVER, WOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT SOMALIS ARE NOT
CAPABLE OF CONTROLLING BASE AND WOULD BE PROOF THAT
SOVIETS INDEED ARE BUILDING BASE FOR THEIR OWN USE.

2. ACCORDING TO AFRICAN DIRECTOR, ARAB LEAGUE HAS
SEEN PICTURES IN THE HERALD TRIBUNE, BUT REMAINS UNCONVINCED
OF PRESENCE OF MISSILE BASE.

EILTS

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